

Leesburg Standing Residential Traffic Committee Minutes of Monday, December 1, 2003

The Leesburg Standing Residential Traffic Committee met on Monday, December 1, 2003, in the Lower Level Conference Room of the Municipal Government Center, 25 West Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present

Elizabeth Whiting, Chair	Peg Coleman
Vice Chair Ric Knight	Sandy Kane
Vice Mayor Mervin Jackson	Gabe Kelemen
Planning Commissioner Lyle Werner	

Town Staff Present

Calvin Grow
Mike Bomgardner
Nick Colonna
Bill Wolff

Citizens present

Michael Demonte
Craig Lane

1. *Minutes:* On motion by Ric Knight, seconded by Sandy Kane, the minutes of the November 3, 2003 meeting were approved, with Lyle Werner abstaining. Liz Whiting thanked Ric Knight for chairing the November meeting.
2. *Public Comment:* There was no public comment.
3. *Bus stop shelter installation project update:* Mike Bomgardner and Calvin Grow reported that shelter locations had been identified for (i) the Loudoun County office building at 1 Harrison Street, S.E. (this has received BAR approval), (ii) the County's Shenandoah office building (near WalMart) and (iii) in the Fort Evans Road, N.E. cul-de-sac near the Montessori School. Keeping the shelters on public property or within public rights-of-way seems to be the only way to get around private landowner reluctance to grant the permissions needed. The foot traffic at the Fort Evans Road, N.E cul-de-sac supports this as an appropriate location.
4. *Meade Drive, S.W. speed studies, Council requests:* Mike Bomgardner confirmed that studies, both by the Department of Engineering and Public Works and the Police Department do not validate a speeding problem that would warrant further traffic calming investigation under the policy approved by the Town Council in the Residential Traffic Task Force report. However, the Town Council has requested that a resolution be prepared for their December 9th meeting for approving all-way stops at Meade Drive, S.W.'s intersections with Lawnhill Court, S.W., Fairfield Way, S.W. and Hague Drive, S.W. (This last request was added at the request of Councilman Schmidt).

Ric Knight moved, seconded by Peg Coleman, that the Committee support the Council resolution. After extended discussion, Ric Knight amended his

motion, again seconded by Peg Coleman, to have the Committee note that they were not opposed to Town Council approval of the request, in the context of noting that (i) the Committee was unable to document the speeding problem reported by the residents, noting that the policy on all-way stops (tracking the VDOT policy) nevertheless allows unwarranted requests to proceed, especially if exceptional circumstances are demonstrated; (ii) that the Committee believes that the ultimate solution will be traffic calming measures tailored to the specific problems identified over time; (iii) the Committee will return to the Town Council with recommendations regarding the traffic circle request at Deermeadow Place, S.W. since this is the first time that location has been identified for any measure and (iv) the Committee will work with the Greenway Farm residents regarding the appropriate area to be canvassed for the \$200.00 add-on speeding penalty, since the Committee believes the “affected neighborhood” is something less than the entire Greenway Farm and Woodlea Manor neighborhoods. The resolution was approved with Calvin Grow, Nick Colonna and Bill Wolff voting against.

5. *FY '05 Budget:* The Committee asked staff to prepare estimates and submit the budget request to permit:
 - a. Construction (\$60,000) of the South King Street median;
 - b. Design (\$10,000) of the Edwards Ferry Road, S.W./Plaza Street “road diet”;
 - c. Design of North King Street entry into Town, to be integrated with Way Finding signage planned at the entry into the Historic Town limits;
 - d. Construction (\$60,000) of the Country Club Drive, S.W. median;
 - e. Construction (\$19,000) of the mini traffic circle requested by Greenway Farm residents at Meade Drive, S.W. and Deermeadow Place, S.W.; and
 - f. Design/construction of an enhanced pedestrian entry into Tuscarora Park off Kincaid Boulevard, S.E.
6. *FY '04 Midyear Budget request:* Vice Mayor Mervin Jackson reported that the Town Council favorably responded to Liz Whiting’s presentation in support of the Committee’s midyear budget request for \$55,000.00 to extend the Route 15 Bypass fence project north to Edwards Ferry Road, N.E. to discourage pedestrian crossings and reinforce the growing use of the free Safe-T-Ride shuttle service.
7. *Committee member concerns:* (a) Gabe Kelemen noted that the Meade Drive, S.W. residents’ cost estimates for construction of a mini-traffic circle (\$2,000.00-\$6,000.00) came from the Residential Traffic Task Force report, which estimates have been proven to be low. Gabe Kelemen asked whether the report needs to be updated generally. Secondly, Gabe Kelemen questioned whether procedures should be changed to get information out to committee members more quickly of neighborhood concerns coming in to Town staff. After discussion, the Committee decided to carry the question

forward, asking that the Police reports identified by Sgt. Bill Wolff be provided to the Committee on an ongoing basis and that the Committee be briefed regarding what kinds of data are being captured about complaints and reports that might reveal ongoing problems over time. (b) Lyle Werner asked who was responsible for resolving the situation with the collapsed retaining wall adjacent to the Edwards Ferry Road, N.E. sidewalk opposite Dodona Manor, noting that pedestrians are removing the saw-horses out of the sidewalk to allow passage. Staff will report back at the January meeting. (c) Sandy Kane asked if attachments to the agenda could be delivered earlier, noting that she would have looked at the Meade Drive, S.W. locations before the meeting if that information had been available earlier. Staff noted that the timing of the Town Council referral on Meade Drive, S.W. made it impossible to get the information out any earlier, but that they would look at speeding up the documentation process when possible. Sandy Kane also asked about the status of the Depot Court crosswalk, on which staff will report at the January meeting. Finally, investigation and recommendations will be made regarding any safety measures that can be implemented for pedestrians at the intersection of Kenneth Place, S.E. and the top of Randi Drive, S.E. to protect pedestrians crossing to access the school bus there. (d) Liz Whiting stated that Councilman Marty Martinez asked her to forward the concern that traffic entering Town on Old Waterford Road, N.W. from the west presented a speeding problem. Both Mike Bomgardner and Bill Wolff reported that this was being studied. Liz Whiting asked that results be shared with the Committee at the January meeting if available.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m. The next meeting is Monday, January 5, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. Staff is to contact Liz Whiting if anything arises needing Committee consideration in the interim.